

**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, TBILISI INSTITUTE OF ASIA AND AFRICA
AND KUTAISI STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
LAUNCHES AN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER**

In 2002, a university partnership program was initiated between Montana State University and two Georgian universities – The Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa and Kutaisi Technical University. The partnership program envisages the exchange of scholars, faculty, and graduate students from the three universities in the fields of American Studies and Oriental Studies. Two U.S. specialists visit Georgia for a three month program every year to conduct lectures at the two partner Georgian universities. In June 2004, a delegation of 10 persons from Montana State University visited Georgia to attend a conference on Georgia-U.S. relations organized by the Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa. That same year, the “Montana Room” Center of American Studies opened at the Institute. The center hosts many conferences and seminars and holds a library of books donated from Montana State University.



The faculty of the Tbilisi Institute of Asia & Africa and three University of Montana students at the student conference.



University of Montana senior Justin Baker presents Dr. Guram Chikovani with a stuffed bear, the mascot of the University of Montana

In a closing presentation, the American students explained the challenges and pleasures of studying Georgian, Arabic and Persian in Georgia to Dr. Guram Chikovani, the Rector of the Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa, members of the faculty and representatives of the U.S. Embassy.

On Monday, August 3, 2004, the Montana Room hosted students from the University of Montana. Before their return to the United States, the students spoke to Tbilisi Institute faculty about their experiences studying in Georgia.



Students of the Montana State University Andrea Helling, Justin Baker and Amanda Spannuth reading presentations about their experiences in Georgian and English

**UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND THE TBILISI STATE MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM RESULTS IN ESTABLISHMENT
OF A CURRICULUM IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The university partnership program between the University of Scranton and Tbilisi State Medical University was successfully completed in 2004. The University of Scranton had received a \$270,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, to develop a partnership between the two universities. The Scranton/Tbilisi partnership program brought together professionals in the fields of special education, rehabilitation, occupational therapy, physical therapy and health education and management. These professionals worked out programs that would educate Georgian professionals and citizens on how to identify and serve the needs of people with disabilities. The program included on-site visits to identify training and curriculum needs, cooperative teaching and cross-cultural curriculum development, and the study of "best practice" sites that model current inclusive services for the disabled. As a result of the program, the partners organized two regional conferences and developed a Georgian/English professional journal in the fields of rehabilitation, special education, and inclusive education.



Dr. Timothy Hobbs, Tenured Associated Professor at University of Scranton and the main initiator of the partnership program, visited Georgia in 2005 on the invitation of the U.S. Embassy to provide necessary follow-up consultations and recommendations to educators and policy-makers involved in the development of special education in Georgia.

UPP HELPS START A NEW MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND ANALYSIS IN GEORGIA

The year 2005 marks the successful completion of the university partnership program between the George Mason University Institute for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (ICAR) and the Tbilisi State University Department of Social Psychology. Georgian lecturers of the Tbilisi State University and its three main branches were trained in conflict resolution and analysis and readers and curriculum were prepared. As a result of the program, the Tbilisi State University started a Masters Degree Program in Conflict Management and Analysis that includes 12 new courses, and three branched of the Tbilisi State University in Signaghi (East Georgia), Zugdidi (West Georgia) and Akhaltsikhe (South Georgia) started offering an elective course in conflict resolution. This is the first and only MA program in conflict resolution offered in the South Caucasus Region and the program has attracted students not only from Georgia but also from Turkey.



Tbilisi State University faculty members congratulate the first graduates of the MA program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, July, 2005.



Georgian scholars and lecturers of the MA program in conflict resolution and analysis George Khutsishvili, Zurab Davitashvili, and Head of the MA program Guguli Magradze, meet with Zeyno Baran, scholar of the Nixon Center, during their visit in the U.S., February 2004.

In 2004, the Tbilisi State University organized an international conference "The Role of the U.S. in World Conflict Management" where faculty and lecturers of ICAR and Tbilisi State University conducted presentations for the Georgian specialists of conflict resolution and analysis.

In July 2005, the first class of 11 students graduated the Masters Degree Program in Conflict Management and Analysis.

The first graduates of the Masters Degree Program in Conflict Management and Analysis in front of the Tbilisi State University, July 13, 2005.



TOP RANKING BUSINESS SCHOOL INTRODUCES MBA PROGRAM WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UPP

In 2005, the Caucasus School of Business received a University Partnership Program award to establish a Ph.D. program in Business Administration specializing in Finance, Marketing, and Management disciplines. The Caucasus School of Business was established in 1998 through funding from the U.S. Department of State by the American University, Georgia State University (U.S.), and three Georgian universities: Georgia Technical University, Tbilisi State University, and Tbilisi State Institute of Economic Relations. CSB is considered one of the two best business schools in Georgia and is financially independent and self-sustaining. The flexible MBA allows employed businessmen and specialists to earn an MBA degree. The BBA program includes specific courses relevant to Georgia.

In October 2003, Richard Miles, U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, and Carl Patton, President of Georgia State University (U.S.), presented diplomas to the first graduates of the Caucasus School of Business. The ceremony coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Caucasus School of Business (CSB). During these five years, enrollment at CSB increased from 11 students to 600 students.



2003 graduates of CSB with distinguished guests in front of the Tbilisi State University, October, 2004.

CSB routinely hosts conferences on important issues such as anti-corruption and conducts seminars and short-term training programs for entrepreneurs and managers in business and government enterprises. Furthermore, high rank U.S. diplomats and businessmen often visit CSB. In November 2004, U.S. Treasury Under-Secretary John B. Taylor visited the CSB and gave a lecture on U.S.-Georgian business relations. In 2005, Frank Mermoud, Head of the Commercial and Business Affairs Office at the U.S. Department of State, visited CSB and gave a lecture.



U.S. Treasury Under Secretary John B. Taylor addresses students of the CSB, November 2004, Tbilisi.

UPP ASSISTS PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

The University Partnership Program supports the master's degree program at the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management, operated by the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) in Washington, D.C. Since its creation in 1994, the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs has been one of the leading schools in Georgia. GIPA offers a Masters Degree in Public Administration and Journalism. The Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management (CSJMM) promotes free, independent and professional media in the Caucasus through their quality western-style journalism program. The long-term goal is to produce leading journalists who will raise current professional standards in the Caucasus region through their superior skills and ethical commitment to uphold the highest standards of good journalism.



2004 Graduation ceremony of the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

Currently 23 students study at the English language Journalism program. In addition to core courses in Reporting and Writing, Ethics and Professional Standards, and Television Journalism and Media Management, students also take intensive training in specific areas, including courts and legal reporting; economics; business reporting; election and political reporting; computer-assisted reporting; and reporting on energy, the utilities and the environment, among other subjects. The CSJMM also offers short-term academic courses in Georgian language.



Students learn design, layout and photojournalism in a course that gives them the skills to produce their own newspaper, the Brosse Street Journal (<http://www.bsj.ge/>), with breaking news and original reporting on current issues and events.